

REMARKS

In the current Office Action, the Examiner has included the following: The Examiner has requested Applicant to correct any informalities in the specification. The Examiner has objected to the claims. Although the Examiner has indicated allowable subject matter in claim 11, the Examiner has rejected claims 1 through 10, 15 through 19, 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103. In response to the above Office Action, Applicant has amended certain claims and the specification. In view of these amendments and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the pending objections and rejections.

The Specification Correction Request

The Examiner has requested Applicant to correct any informalities in the specification. As indicated above, numerous errors have been voluntarily corrected as the Examiner has encouraged. The corrected errors include corrections on grammatical mistakes as well as clarifications on the originally disclosed subject matter limitations. No new matter has been added by the amendments to the specification since all of the amendments have been supported by the disclosures in the original application. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits the Examiner to enter the proposed amendments to the specification.

The Objected Claims

The Examiner has extended the courtesy to Applicant to clarify whether or not thermal expansion coefficients and the elastic part are the desired material choice for the structure in claims 1 through 22. Applicant has amended independent claims to clarify that “first” and “second thermal expansion coefficients” are of a desired material choice.

In addition, claim 9 has been also amended to clarify the subject matter limitation. In stead of an absolute unit, the numerical range is now explicitly recited in percentage.

Based upon the above claim amendment, Applicant respectfully submit to the Examiner that the pending claim objections should be withdrawn.

The Section 103 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 through 10, 15 through 19, 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious over the Hiwaki et al. reference. It appears that the cited reference Hiwaki et al. is not applicable as prior art for the currently pending US application. The Hiwaki et al. reference is qualified as prior art as of June 24, 2004 under section 102(b). Alternatively, the Hiwaki et al. reference is qualified as prior art as of December 3, 2003 under section 102(e). Since neither of

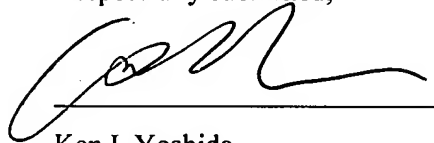
the above dates is before the US filing date, July 22, 2003 of the current application, the Hiwaki et al. reference is not qualified as prior art for the currently pending rejections under section 103. For the above reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner should remove the Hiwaki et al. reference and withdraw the current pending §103 rejections.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a favorable Office Action so indicating.

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Respectfully submitted,



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